

[In volume xxxviii, p. 190 Mr. R. C. Morris published a note on 'Vultures feeding at night'. The birds descended from neighbouring trees at about 8 p.m. and by 11 p.m. they had completely demolished the carcass. It was a moon-light night.

On p. 624 of the same volume, Mr. W. Gough records an identical incident when sitting up for tiger near Neemuch. Eds.]

## X.—INJURIES TO THE FEET OF A MALLARD.

Last February I shot a Mallard, the feet of which appeared to have suffered a loss of portions of the web and 'toes', the latter being in certain cases, mere stumps, and having the appearance of the ravages of 'Frost Bite', or amputation as might occur from a jaw-trap. The injuries were of no recent date, as there were no raw or open scars, and the bird—a drake—was in capital condition, being one of the heaviest of the species I've shot—well over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

W. P. KEELAN.

ARCADIA T. E.,  
DEHRA DUN, U.P.

July 19, 1940.

## XI.—ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF BOMBAY AND SALSETTE.

Since the publication of the final part of our paper on 'The Birds of Bombay and Salsette' we have obtained several fresh records, and our attention has been drawn to overlooked data. This is an attempt to bring the paper into line with the information available today, and we hope to be able to bring out these supplementary reports from time to time.

Several of the records merely duplicate previous observations, and are entered for completeness. We are also including a number of nesting records from the adjacent country, since almost no information is available from our area, and these might facilitate further work.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the considerable amount of data obtained by Br. Navarro at Khandāla, and we hope to be able to publish a more complete list of the mass of interesting details that he has procured in that locality.

### I.—BIRDS NEW TO THE BOMBAY-SALSETTE LIST.

#### **The Indian Pied Myna :** *Sturnopastor contra contra* (Linn.).

At Dharāvi, near Sion Station, a pair of these mynas was noted several times in a localised area and one was seen singing lustily in a Bombax (April 1940). H.A. also saw another pair near Kūrla during the monsoon last year, but these records may refer to 'escapes' since this is a common cage bird.

**The Pigmy Wood-pecker :** *Dryobates hardwickii hardwickii* (Jerdon).

A solitary bird was observed on a *Bombax* in open deciduous forest near Borivli on 31-12-39, and a pair on the Wada Road some 20 miles North of Bhiwandi, on 27-6-37. There is also a specimen obtained by Fr. Palacios at Mūrūd, Janjira, during August, 1937. These records show that the bird is sparsely distributed throughout our area.

**The European Roller :** *Coracias garrula semenowi* Loudon & Tschusi.

Further to the Khandāla records mentioned in *J.B.N.H.S.* xl, p. 168, a specimen was obtained in Bombay City during December, 1938.

**The Blue-winged Paroquet :** *Psittacula columboides* (Vigors).

This bird was twice seen on a hillside in heavy forest at Tungar Hill near Bassein on 2-4-34. Brother Navarro has records of c/3 on 4-2-40, and c/3 on 15-4-40, both from Khandāla.

**The Jungle Nightjar :** *Caprimulgus indicus indicus* Latham.

A specimen obtained at Chembur on Trombay Island was sent in to St. Xavier's College during December, 1939. This species may be a rare resident in our area, as it was noted common at Kardi (near Ātgāon) on the Nāsik Road.

It is also common at Khandāla, where Navarro has taken 3 clutches of 2 eggs each during May, 1937. He records that in each clutch one egg was distinctly larger than the other.

**Franklin's Nightjar :** *Caprimulgus monticolus monticolus* Franklin.

A specimen was obtained by D. A. Barretto at Kūrla on 10-1-40. The characteristic *sweesh* call of this bird is too distinctive to be overlooked, and this individual may have been a straggler.

**The Brown Hawk Owl :** *Ninox scutulata lugubris* (Tickell).

A male, with dormant testes was shot at Bandra on 13-1-40, by Mr. Knox. The specimen, which is now in the St. Xavier's College Collection, was examined by Sālm Ali who places it with *lugubris*. The colour is intermediate between *lugubris* and *hirsuta*, while the head is darker than *lugubris*. The wing measures as 213 mm.

**The Indian River Tern :** *Sterna aurantia* Gray.

This tern was noted as common on flooded mud flats at Bassein on 17-9-39. There is a specimen in the St. Xavier's College Collection obtained at Trombay.

**The Large Crested Tern :** *Thalasseus bergii* ssp.

One was noted going over the ternlet colony at Utan Washi on 28-5-37. Considering that a sub-species of this bird is common further south and breeds on the Vingūrla Rocks, it is likely that stray birds do occasionally turn up round Bombay. It is of course essentially a bird of the sea.

**The Large Indian Cormorant :** *Phalacrocorax carbo [sinensis* (Shaw & Nodder)].

Several were seen at Tānsa Lake on 18 April 1940. The white about the head and on the thighs is unmistakable. The bird is also appreciably larger than the other cormorants and much stockier than the Darter.

**The White Ibis :** *Threskiornis melanocephalus melanocephalus* (Latham.).

In the St. Xavier's College Collection there is a specimen shot by Fr. Palacios in Rewdanda Creek on 8-11-33. This Ibis is also common in the Deccan, and a large flock was seen at Lake Beale on 22-10-39.

**The Glossy Ibis :** *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus* (Linn.).

A bird was shot by Fr. Palacios of St. Xavier's College, in Rewdanda Creek on 8-11-33. A pair was observed by H. A. in salt pans at Bassein on 17-9-39. This species is common at Nāsik and in the Deccan generally.

**The Reunion Petrel:** *Petrodroma aterra*.

On 15-6-40, a specimen was sent in alive to St. Xavier's College. After some speculation regarding its identity, and in the absence of any material for comparison, it was forwarded to the Colombo Museum, and has been named as this species by Mr. G. M. Henry of that place. This bird is new to the Indian area; its distribution is given as 'Western Indian Ocean near Mascarenhas Island, and breeds at Reunion Island' (These islands are off Madagascar). The specimen was obtained by fisher-folk near Colaba Lighthouse, and considering that *Puffinus persicus* has also been procured in the same area this year, it appears that petrels may be commoner about our coast than existing records indicate, and further collaboration with fishermen might produce interesting information.

2.—ADDITIONAL NOTES RELATING TO BIRDS ALREADY MENTIONED  
IN OUR ORIGINAL PAPER.

**The Southern Grey Tit:** *Parus major mahrattarum* Hartert.

Several were noted on 13-2-38, some 20 miles north of Bhiwandi, along the Wada Road. Navarro took an egg at Lonavla.

**The Common Babbler:** *Argya caudata caudata* (Dumont).

Navarro has a record of three fresh eggs taken in a bush in an orchard at Bandra on 2-3-40.

**The Deccan Scimitar Babbler:** *Pomatorhinus horsfieldi* Sykes.

On 9-11-39, Navarro took c/3 fresh and c/3 half-incubated at Khandāla.

**The White-throated Babbler:** *Dumetia hyperthra albogularis* (Blyth).

We took c/4 at Khandāla on 3-9-39.

**The Bombay Quaker Babbler:** *Alcippe poiocephala brucei* Hume.

Navarro obtained c/3 at Khandāla on 10-11-39.

**Jerdon's Chloropsis:** *Chloropsis jerdoni* (Blyth).

Navarro has two records of nests with 2 eggs obtained at Khandāla on 13-6-40.

**The Indian Stone-Chat:** *Saxicola torquata indica*. (Blyth).

Birds were seen on bushes bordering snipe country near Kihim on 19-10-32.

**The Indian Shama:** *Kittacina malabarica malabarica* (Scopoli).

Navarro has taken 2 clutches of 4 eggs each at Khandāla on 15-4-38 and 27-5-38.

**The White-throated Ground Thrush:** *Geokichla citrina cyanotus* (Jardine & Selby).

Records appear to indicate that this bird is a monsoon visitor to Salsette, and further notes would be of interest.

**The Blue Rock Thrush:** *Monticola solitaria pandoo* (Sykes).

The first and last records of this bird are on 2-10-33 and 18-4-35.

**The Paradise Flycatcher:** *Tchitrea paradisi* [paradisi (L)].

The last record from Salsette is on 3-5-34, but Navarro has obtained eggs (c/2) at Khandāla on 17-3-40. The sub-species requires confirmation.

**The Pale Brown Shrike:** *Lanius isabellinus* Hempr. & Ehrenb.

The appearance of this species in our parts in the cold weather of 1939-40 may have some connection with the failure of the monsoon in its usual winter quarters further north and west. A male was shot on the mud-flats near Rewas in Dharamtar Creek on 3-12-39, and another was obtained at Ghoti, Nasik Dist. on 1-1-40. It was then noted as common. Another was seen in 'katchar-patti', Trombay Island, on 26-1-40.

**The Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike:** *Lalage sykesi*. Strickland.

Navarro obtained a c/3 at Khandāla on 27-5-39.

**The Bronzed Drongo:** *Chaptia aenea malayensis*. Blyth.

A pair was observed in deciduous forest at Borivli on 31-12-39, where they were occasionally hawking very close to the ground; another example on 7-4-40, a few miles from Thana. It may be a winter visitor.

**The Racket-tailed Drongo:** *Dissemurus paradiseus malabaricus* (Latham).

A c/1 was observed along the Tulsi Flume on 18-6-39. On 7th April, 1940, the forest north of the Dahisar stream was rapidly cut down, and several Racket-tailed Drongos were seen in deforested country which can now be termed scrub, with a few stunted clumps of bamboo. Will the birds migrate to heavier forest or acclimatize themselves to scrub?

**Franklin's Wren-Warbler:** *Franklinia gracilis gracilis* (Franklin).

A bird was building at Vihar Lake on 3-7-38.

**The Black-headed Oriole:** *Oriolus xanthornus maderaspatanus* (Franklin).

Another nest with c/3 was obtained at Powāi Lake on 5-7-36, and young out of nest were also observed.

**The Rosy Pastor of Rose-coloured Starling:** *Pastor roseus* (Linn.).

Birds were seen at Bhyandar as early as 20th Aug. 39. This might be due to the drought in the North.

**The Grey-headed Myna:** *Sturnia malabarica malabarica* (Gmelin).

Navarro obtained a c/1 at Khandāla on 18-6-39, and this is the nearest breeding record available. In Salsette it appears to be commonest during the monsoon and cold winter.

**Blyth's Myna:** *Sturnia malabarica blythii* (Jerdon).

On 9-9-39, a party of four or five was observed at Trombay Island.

**The Jungle Mya:** *Æthiopsar fuscus mahrattensis* (Sykes).

A pair was observed at Powai on 20-4-40. By June quite a colony appear to have settled down among the palms now standing on marshy land exposed by the drainage of the lake. One pair was noted building in a hole in a headless brab. Common Mynas are also present, but these appear to keep to drier land.

**The Indian Red Munia:** *Amandava amandava* (Linn.).

A small party, all in female plumage, was observed at Vihār on 2-2-34.

**The Black-headed Bunting:** *Emberiza melanocephala* Scopoli.

A small flock was observed between Mumbra and Panvel on 18-3-39. It was common near Ghoti, Nāsik Dist. on 1-1-40.

**The Crag Martin:** *Riparia rupestris* (Scop.).

These birds were observed at Khandāla on 30-11-39. They were noted as common near Lake Beale on 1-1-40, as well as at Niphad on 17-3-40.

**The Dusky Crag Martin:** *Riparia concolor* (Sykes).

On 2-7-38, a pair was observed nesting over a door-way at Worli, Bombay City. Another pair was building at Kampoli—Bhor Ghat on 1-3-39. On 3-9-39, the latter nest site had been shifted by about 10' and the birds were still building. Water was apparently seeping up to the old nest, and the material for the new nest was obtained from the old one.

We have no breeding records in the City, except during the monsoon. The nests found during March-April, are situated near springs in the Ghāts. The availability of water may therefore constitute a factor governing single or double broods.

**The Indian Wire-tailed Swallow:** *Hirundo smithii filifera* (Stephens).

On 28-7-40, birds were seen visiting a nest under a culvert at Bhiwandi, Thāna Dist.

**The Indian White Wagtail:** *Motacilla alba dukhunensis* Sykes.

It may be interesting to note that the same roosts are used year after year on migration. Does this indicate memory among birds?

**The Small Indian Skylark:** *Alauda gulgula gulgula* Franklin.

A c/3 was found at Colaba Reclamation on 7-9-38, while a c/2 was picked up at Godhbunder in snipe country on 8-10-39.

**Tickell's Flowerpecker:** *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos erythrorhynchos* (Latham).

The breeding season appears to be more prolonged than indicated by us previously, as a nest with 2 chicks was obtained at Bhiwandi, on 26-8-38.

**The Southern Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker:** *Dryobates mahrattensis mahrattensis* (Latham).

This bird was seen busy at flowers (nectar?) of *Sterculia colorata* at Kaneri, Borivli, on 19-4-35.

**The Rufous Woodpecker:** *Micropternus brachyurus jerdonii* (Malherbe).

On 25-6-39, Navarro obtained a c/2 from a nest alive with ants at Khandāla. A pair at work demolishing a 'live' *Crematogaster* nest interrupted work to remove the unwelcome ants off their persons. The alarm note is a quick low 'qu-uk'. The rectrices do not appear to be as stiff as those in other woodpeckers and this may be correlated with their un-woodpeckerlike habit of perching across a branch.

**The Malabar Heart-spotted Woodpecker:** *Hemicircus canente cordatus* Jerdon.

On 21-5-39, a pair were seen suspiciously near a hole in dry branch along Wada Road near Sūriāmal, and another pair was observed elsewhere. We have two further sight records from Salsette: 31-3-36 and 31-12-39. The call is harsh and jerky rather like an *Lynx*'s.

**The Indian Cuckoo:** *Cuculus micropterus micropterus* Gould.

This bird appears more common than indicated before, at least during the monsoon. The call is difficult to discriminate from that of the Scimitar Babbler, except that it always comes from the tops of trees, and there is occasionally an extra syllable. A male was shot on 28-7-40, at Tānsa River north of Bhiwandi.

**The Common Crow-Pheasant or Coucal:** *Centropus sinensis parroti* Stres.

A bird was observed carrying grass blades at Trombay, on 9-9-39. Navarro has obtained young at Khandāla on 23-5-38.

**The Large Alexandrine Paroquet:** *Psittacula eupatria* ssp.

A pair was shot at Bandra on 20-8-32. The specimens are in the St. Xavier's College Collection.

**The Loriquet:** *Coryllis vernalis* ssp.

These birds were noted as common in small parties, about 8 miles north of Bhiwandi along Wada Road, on 28-7-40.

**The Indian Three-toed Kingfisher:** *Ceyx erithaca erithaca* (Linn.).

A c/1 was obtained from a hole in cutting in wooded hill-side, on road-side at Powāi on 5-7-36. A newly hatched chick with 2 eggs was found in a nest in a similar situation at Suriāmal during the rains in the same year.

**The Indian Black Eagle:** *Ictinaetus malayensis perniger* Hodgs.

On 12-11-39, Navarro located a bird building at the top of a tall tree down in the valley at Khandāla, but it had apparently deserted the nest at a later visit.



We have several sight records of this bird in Salsette and the neighbouring area. It appears too distinctive to be confused with any other species.

A specimen was shot at Virār, a little north of Salsette on 14 Jan. 1940. (J.B.N.H.S. xli, 899).

**The Black-winged Kite:** *Elanus coeruleus vociferus* (Lath.).

A specimen was obtained in Tūlsi-Vihar area on 25-2-40. Its stomach contained a *Mabuya carinata* lizard.

**The Pied Harrier:** *Circus melanoleucus* (Forst.).

A specimen was shot in early November, and another observed at Panvēl, on 25-2-34.

**The Indian Emerald Dove:** *Chalcophaps indica indica* (Linn.).

A loud cooing, reminiscent of a large wood-pigeon, often heard in Salsette, has been traced to this bird. On 21-3-40, Navarro took a c/2 at Khandāla.

**The Indian Rufous Turtle-Dove:** *Streptopelia orientalis meena* (Sykes).

Several were seen at Godhbunder on 23-3-38.

**The Jungle Bush Quail:** *Perdica asiatica asiatica* (Lath.).

A bird with young was seen at Powāi in March 1939. On 17th September 1939, a female with soft egg in ovary was shot in paddy stubble at Tūngar, near Bassein.

**The Southern Painted Partridge:** *Francolinus pictus* (Jard. and Selby).

A male shot calling off a tree near Bhiwandi on 17-9-39, had enlarged testes and was obviously breeding. The breeding of most of our game birds does not appear to coincide with the statutory close season.

**The Ruddy Crake:** *Amaurornis fuscus fuscus* (Linn.).

Specimen No. 266 noted in J.B.N.H.S. xl. 629 should be dated 21-6-36 and not November.

**The Coot:** *Fulica atra* Linn.

A bird was seen at Bhyandar as early as 29th Aug. 1939. On 3-9-39 there were quite a few birds on Panvēl Tank. In the St. Xavier's College Collection there is a single egg labelled 'Bombay, 1910.'

**The Demoiselle Crane:** *Anthropoides virgo* (Linn.).

This is, of course, a common visitor to the Deccan during the cold weather.

**The Indian Stone Plover:** *Burhinus oedicnemus* ssp.

One was seen at Andhēri in a deserted garden on 4-2-40.

**The Large Indian Pratincole or Swallow-Plover:** *Glareola maldivarum maldivarum* (Forster).

On 1-9-39, a solitary bird was shot on the road at Bhyander. It appeared to be a tired straggler.

**The Little Tern or Ternlet:** *Sterna albifrons albifrons* Vroeg.

The colony at Utan Washi was visited again on 4-6-39, and numerous nests observed. The parents were noted wetting the eggs by dipping themselves in sea-water every few minutes. This is described in J.B.N.H.S. xli, p. 433.

**Jerdon's Little Ringed Plover:** *Charadrius dubius jerdoni* (Legge).

Navarro has had two birds taken off clutches both of 3 eggs on 24th May at Khandāla, identified as *jerdoni*.

**The Eastern Curlew :** *Numenius arquata lineatus* Cuvier.

Snails, mudfish and fiddler crabs appear to form a fair proportion of the food of these birds.

**The Whimbrel :** *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus* (Linn.).

This bird is a prominent passage migrant in Salsette. Stomach examined, contained remains of snails and crabs.

**The Ruff and Reeve :** *Philomachus pugnax* (Linn.).

On 29-8-39 one was shot out of a flock of 25 in a slushy maidan covered with short grass at Bhyandar.

**The Curlew-Stint or Pigmy Sandpiper :** *Erolia testacea* (Pallas).

This was common at Nala Sopara on tidal mud-flats on 17-9-39.

**The Wood Snipe :** *Capella nemoricola* (Hodgs).

One shot at Ambarnath in Jan. 1940 has been recorded in the *Journal* vol. xli, p. 665.

**The Persian Shearwater :** *Puffinus persicus* Hume.

A female was brought in alive by fishermen to St. Xavier's College from Colaba Light-house on 3-7-40. Legs and feet pinkish white: outer part of tarsus and outer toes including web black. Iris brown; bill brown. Wings 221 mm. cul. 31 mm. tar. 36 mm. tail 80 mm.

**The Indian Spoonbill :** *Platalea leucorodia major* (Temm. & Schlegel).

We have several sight records from the surrounding area, and it appears to be well known to most local shikaris as 'paat'. At Lake Beale near Ghoti it was very common on 1-1-40.

**The Open-billed Stork :** *Anastomus oscitans* (Bodd).

On 4-2-40 a solitary bird was seen at north end of Vihār Lake.

**The Yellow Bittern :** *Ixobrychus sinensis sinensis* (Gmelin).

Specimen No. 268 obtained at Powāi and recorded in *J.B.N.H.S.* xli, p. 648 should be dated 21-6-36, and not November.

**The Flamingo :** *Phoenicopterus ruber antiquorum* Temm.

A flock of eight was noted at Bhyandar on 20-8-39. One with downy head was shot out of a party of three at Dharamtar Creek on 12-11-39. This was a drought year in Cutch and Gujerat.

**The Spot-bill or Grey Duck :** *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha* Forster.

On 7-4-40 a pair was observed at Powāi, where shooting is now prohibited. When settled the spots on the beak are distinct, while in flight the red legs are prominent. This bird breeds in Niphad, Nāsik Dist.

**The Garganey or Blue-winged Teal :** *Querquedula querquedula* (Linn.).

Several were shot at Bassein on 17-9-39. A small party including a male in full plumage was observed at Powāi on 7-4-40.

**The White-eyed Pochard :** *Nyroca rufa* Linn.

This was observed with the party of Garganeys at Powāi on 7-4-40.

**The Tufted Pochard :** *Nyroca fuligula fuligula* (Linn.).

Mr. McCann reports seeing a party on Tūlsi Lake on 3-2-40.